



# Clermont County Park District

Summer 2006 Newsletter

## Park Improvements

This summer a number of park improvement projects will take place at several of our parks. These improvements were made possible primarily through grants and donations.

The Pattison Foundation has agreed to fund \$20,000 for a new playground at Chilo Lock #34 Park. We will also finish the fence and riverwalk overlooking the river. The boat ramp improvement project, funded by a grant from Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Watercraft, is proceeding through the permit process.

Alan Bernstein, owner of B&B Riverboats, recently donated two steam engines from the steamboat *Wakerobin* to the visitor center at Chilo Lock #34 Park. These large engines will become an outdoor display that is being funded by a \$10,000 grant from the J. Mack Gamble Fund of the Sons and Daughters of Pioneer Rivermen.

At Sycamore Park, a new play structure has been ordered and is scheduled to be installed in late June. Money from the ODOT Park District Road Improvement Fund will pay for parking lot and entrance road pavement repairs at Sycamore Park and the paving of the Hartman Log Cabin parking lot.

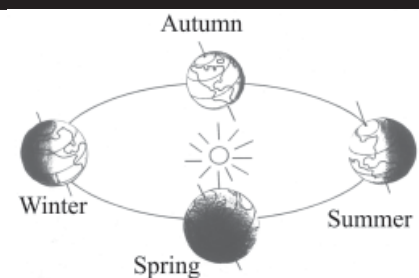
Donations to the Park District are greatly appreciated. They can take the form of land, stock, equipment, and cash. Donations can be made directly to the Park District or to the Clermont County Park District Fund of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation. Please call Chris Clingman, Director of the Clermont County Park District, at 513-732-2977 for more information on how your donation can help the Park District achieve its mission.

- Chris Clingman, Director

## Summer Solstice

### Sheila Riley, Naturalist

What do you think of when you hear the term summer solstice? Hot summer days, being at your favorite swimming hole, or cooking hot dogs and hamburgers on the grill? Whatever comes to mind you know that summer is finally here!



The word solstice comes from the Latin word *sol* meaning sun and *sistit* meaning stands still. This year the summer solstice falls on June 21st. According to *The Farmers Almanac*, the length of the day here will be about 14 hours and 54 minutes. On this day the sun reaches the highest point in the sky, making it the longest day of the year, and marking the official beginning of summer.

It takes about 365 days for the Earth to orbit, or travel around the sun. As the Earth orbits, it also spins on a tilted 23.5 degree axis, an imaginary line that goes through the planet between the North and South poles. The tilt along with the orbit of the Earth is what causes seasons, not how close we are to the sun. The Earth is actually closer to the sun in late December. The spinning of the Earth on its axis causes day and night. As the Earth rotates, different parts of the world are facing the sun. If Earth did not have a tilt, day and night would be of equal lengths.

When the North Pole is tilted toward the sun, we in the Northern Hemisphere receive more direct sunlight causing long summer days. (See diagram). When the North Pole is tilted away from the sun we receive less direct sunlight, meaning our days are shorter and colder during the winter. (Winter solstice is the shortest day of the year and happens when the Earth's North Pole is tilted farthest from the sun). During spring and fall the Earth receives an equal amount of sunlight, resulting in more moderate weather.

Twice a year, on the first day of spring, and the first day of autumn, the sun rises exactly in the east, travels through the sky for 12 hours and sets exactly in the west. When this happens everyone on the Earth has 12 hours of day and 12 hours of night. These are the vernal equinox, and the autumnal equinox. Equinox means "equal".

If you would like to learn more about our sun and the effect it has on the earth visit Chilo Lock #34 Park Visitor Center and Museum on June 10<sup>th</sup> as we celebrate the upcoming summer solstice.

*Summer*  
*Programs and Events*  
**June - August**

General Program Information  
Most programs are free. If a fee is charged, it will be indicated in the program description. Most outdoor programs are held rain or shine. Please come dressed for the weather and the activity. Unless otherwise stated, children under the age of 14 must be accompanied by an adult. For more information about our programs, please contact the Naturalist Office at **513-876-9013**.

**Summer Sun**

**Saturday, June 10th**  
**Chilo Lock #34 Park**  
**1:00 - 4:00 pm**

Summer is almost here! Come out to Chilo Lock #34 Visitor Center and help us celebrate! Learn about sunspots, the northern lights, and why we have summer. There will be ongoing crafts and, if clear, **safe** viewing of the sun. **Never look directly at the sun with the naked eye.**



**Creepy Crawlers**

**Tuesday, June 13th**  
**Sycamore Park**  
**10:00 - 11:30 am**

Join the naturalist as we seek out and catch the many small creatures that call Sycamore Park home. After close observation, we will safely release them back into their homes. Once we have finished our exploration we will gather at the picnic shelter to construct our own creepy crawlers. Preregistration is required. For more information or to register please call 513-876-9013. Open to children ages 3-12 with an adult.

**Ohio River Sweep**

**Saturday, June 17th**  
**Chilo Lock #34 Park**  
**9:00 am - 1:00 pm**

Join thousands of volunteers from Pittsburgh, PA to Cairo, IL in cleaning up the Ohio River. Pitch in and help the Park District clean up the riverbanks at Chilo Lock #34 Park and Crooked Run Nature Preserve. The annual Ohio River Sweep is sponsored by the Ohio River Valley Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO). Volunteers will receive a free T-shirt, while supplies last, and enjoy a picnic lunch following the event. Preregistration is required. Call 513-876-9013 to sign up. Minors must have a parental consent form signed prior to the event.



**Garlic Mustard Pull**

**Saturday, June 17th**  
**Kelley Nature Preserve**  
**9:00 - 11:00 am**

What is this lush green plant with tiny white flowers that is so abundant in the woodlands of our area? Come learn what Garlic Mustard is, how it got here, and why we would like it out of the nature preserve. We will pull it, pile it, and even share a Garlic Mustard recipe or two with all who come out for this ecological restoration event. Please wear long pants and light work gloves. All ages are welcome, children must be accompanied by an adult. Registration is required. Please call 513-876-9013 to sign up.

**Turtles & Toads**

**Monday, June 26th**  
**Pattison Park**  
**7:00 pm**

Did you know that Eastern Box Turtles can live to be 100 years old or that toads use their eyeballs to help them swallow their prey? Bring the whole family to Pattison Park and get an up close look at the Eastern Box Turtle and an American Toad. Discover just how fascinating these creatures really are. Meet at the picnic shelter.



**Fossil Fun**

**Saturday, July 1st**  
**US Army Corps of Engineers**  
**Harsha Lake Visitor Center**  
**10:00 am**

450 million years ago this area was covered by a warm shallow sea. Join the Naturalist and Park Ranger, Linda Romine from the US Army Corps of Engineers, on a journey back in time. Explore what lived in this Ordovician Sea of long, long ago. Afterward we'll go to the spillway and search for fossilized remains of these ancient creatures. For more information call 797-6081.



**Wildflower Walk**

**Sunday, July 16th**  
**Crooked Run Nature Preserve**  
**2:00 pm**

Follow the naturalist on a pleasant afternoon stroll through the open meadow and shaded trails of Crooked Run Nature Preserve. Explore the preserve in search of wildflowers and butterflies, and marvel at the variety of flowers and insects that occupy the preserve. Don't forget to bring your camera or binoculars, you never know what we will discover. Meet at the Chilo Lock #34 Park Visitor Center.



Cockroaches Are Cool!

Tuesday, July 18th

Pattison Park

10:00 am

Listen to a story about insects then get up close and personal with one of nature’s most interesting insects, the Madagascan Hissing Cockroach! Madagascan cockroaches are known as “living fossils” and are very similar to the prehistoric cockroaches that lived on Earth long before the dinosaurs. Meet at the picnic shelter.

Lightning Bugs, Bats, and Moths

Friday, July 21st

Chilo Lock #34 Park

8:00 - 9:30 pm

Gather in the twilight as we seek out the many creatures of the night that roam the fields and sky over Chilo Lock #34 Park. Hunt for moths and lightning bugs and witness the aerial antics of the many bats that inhabit the park. Bring a flashlight and a sense of adventure. Meet at the visitor center.



Summer Wildflower Walk

Tuesday, August 1st

Sycamore Park

7:00 pm

Many plants take advantage of the hot and dry summer. Enjoy an evening stroll at Sycamore Park and discover what woodland wildflowers are thriving. Ironweed, sunflowers, and coneflowers are just a few that we will be searching for. Meet at the information kiosk.



Summer Evening River Walk

Thursday, August 3rd

Kelley Nature Preserve

7:00 pm

Take a lazy walk along the scenic river trail and enjoy the sights and sounds of an August evening. Search for signs of beaver, listen for the squawk of the great blue heron and the startling rattle-call of the kingfisher. Depending on water levels in the Little Miami River, we’ll take a dip net into the riffles and shallow pools to see what little creatures we can find. Meet at the information kiosk.



Introduction to Flyfishing

Saturday, August 5th

Sycamore Park

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Have you always wanted to take up the sport of fly fishing but didn’t know where to start? Join members of the Buckeye United Fly Fishers as they teach you the basics of fly tying, casting, and what equipment you’ll need to fully experience this relaxing hobby. Fee is \$5.00 per person and includes a picnic lunch. Preregistration is required. Please call 513-876-9013 to sign up.



Butterfly Sunday!

Sunday, August 13th

Chilo Lock #34 Park Visitor Center

11:00 am to 3:00 pm

Celebrate nature’s solar-powered creatures and explore how to invite them to your own yard during this day of discovery.



Backer Photography

**11:00 am Butterfly Walk** – Search for butterflies in the meadows, forest edge and wetlands, and learn what plants attract them. If the butterflies aren’t active, August is a great time to find eggs, caterpillars and maybe a Monarch chrysalis!

12:00 - 3:00 Butterfly Crafts

Children can drop in anytime to make butterfly crafts to take home.

**1:00 Children’s Stories-** Join the naturalist for special stories about a Very Hungry Caterpillar, and caterpillars who are Waiting for Wings!

**2:00 Butterfly Gardening Program** – Gardening for wildlife is becoming very popular. Find out how to choose “butterfly magnet” plants and follow a few simple principles, your yard will soon be overflowing with sulphurs, swallowtails, Monarchs and fritillaries!



Bee Here or Bee Square

Saturday, August 12th  
Chilo Lock #34 Park &  
Crooked Run Nature Preserve  
12:00 - 3:30 pm

Follow the naturalist through Crooked Run Nature Preserve in search of one of our most valuable insect species, the “humble little honey bee”. Afterwards gather together to construct a bee box for you garden or settle in for storytelling and crafts for the kids. (A fee of \$10.00 will be charged if you wish to construct a bee box). End your experience with snacks and a free family film in the visitor center about a popular bear who likes honey.



A Walk in the Meadow

Saturday, August 19th  
Chilo Lock #34 Park &  
Crooked Run Nature Preserve  
11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Explore Crooked Run Nature Preserve with the naturalist. We’ll search for animals and see what type of plants attract them. See how we manage our meadow for wildlife, and what you can do at home to attract wildlife. Meet at the Chilo Lock #34 Visitor Center.

First Annual Pancakes in the Park a Success!

Over 250 people showed up to Pattison Park on a cold rainy Saturday morning to attend the Park District’s first annual Pancakes in the Park event. A delicious pancake and sausage breakfast was served along with 100% pure maple syrup. Those that braved the wet weather enjoyed several hands on demonstrations showing the process of making maple syrup.



Veronica Brannen shows interested onlookers how sap is collected from trees.



An eager visitor hammers a spile into a tree

Mark your calendars now for the second annual *Pancakes in the Park* on Saturday March 10th, 2007.

2006 Kid’s Fishing Derby

A very special thank you to the East Fork Bass Anglers for sponsoring and running another successful Kid’s Fishing Derby at Pattison Park. The following organizations also made donations to the Fishing Derby.

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|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Showcase Home Improvements    | Eastgate Wal-Mart      |
| All-in-One Awards and Apparel | 1st Stop Donuts        |
| Fehrmen’s Bait and Tackle     | Distinctive Signs      |
| Hamilton Wholesale Bait       | Ohio Building Services |



Clermont County Park District  
Board of Park Commissioners meetings  
Second Tuesday of every month,  
12:00 pm, Pattison Park  
All meetings are open to the public.

New Hiking Trail Dedicated!

Boy Scouts Brian Marlbor and Derek Disbennet cut the ceremonial ribbon officially dedicating the new hiking trail at Sycamore Park. The new trail was part of an Eagle Scout project for both scouts. Brian was responsible for clearing the path for the new trail and building several sets of steps along the way. Derek’s project included the construction of two foot bridges along the trail. The new trail is on 30 acres of land that the Park District purchased with the assistance of a Clean Ohio Fund grant in the amount of \$222,060.



# Birthday Bash!

Saturday and Sunday  
August 26th and 27th  
Chilo Lock #34 Park

The Chilo Lock #34 Visitor Center and Museum is turning one year old. Help us celebrate as you enjoy live music, entertainment, refreshments, and of course, a beautiful view of the river. Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy a weekend of fun on the river.



Steve Free

**Birthday Bash schedule of events**  
(schedule subject to change prior to event)

**Saturday August 26th**

**12:00 - 2:00 *Steve Free Band***

Steve Free is an internationally known award winning singer/songwriter and recording artist. Steve and his bandmates play a mix of songs based on the artist’s Appalachian and Native American roots. They are popular at many summer fairs and festivals, and have a reputation as a good-time audience participation band.



**2:00 - 3:00 *Steamboatin’ in the 1800’s***

Jim Williams is a retired educator and Naturalist with the Hamilton County Park District. Jim continues his love of teaching by presenting educational programs on a variety of natural and cultural history subjects. Join Jim as he gives a first person portrayal of the life of an 1800’s era steamboat captain. Jim’s performances are always entertaining and highly energetic.

**3:00 - 3:45 *Big Muddy String Band***

The Big Muddy String Band makes it’s home in Louisville Kentucky, Mile 604 on the Ohio River. They play a mix of old and recent compositions about rivers and steamboats, as well as fiddle tunes from the Ohio Valley.

**4:00 - 5:00 *John Fryant, Steamboats Coast to Coast***

John is a member of the Sons and Daughters of Pioneer Rivermen. He is a river enthusiast and an expert on model steamboat building. John will have one of his works of art on display as he talks about the history and significance of steamboats on America’s rivers. John will have several books of his boat model plans for sale.



Ohio River Minstrels

**5:00 - 5:45 *Big Muddy String Band***

**Sunday August 27th**

**2:00 - 4:00 *The Ohio River Minstrels***

The Ohio River Minstrels are musicians, singers, songwriters, and historians. They have performed at many community festivals and events throughout the Ohio River valley. Listen as they teach early river history through song.

**4:00 - 5:00 *Flatboatin’ on the Ohio***

Join naturalist and educator Jim Williams as he portrays an early pioneer member of the Gatch family as he arrives in Southwest Ohio by flatboat.

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**Support the *Friends of the Jennie Wade!***

The Friends of the Jennie Wade will be operating a concession stand in the park, grilling hot dogs, hamburgers, and selling ice cold beverages. All proceeds will benefit the Friends of the Jennie Wade.



Clermont County Park District  
2228 US Highway 50  
Batavia, Ohio 45103

Bulk Rate  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 490  
Milford, OH  
PRESRT STD

**Mission Statement**

To acquire, plan, develop, program, and maintain park property in the county for residents and nonresidents alike. To secure the preservation of open space and places of scenic or historic value.

**Board of Park Commissioners**

William Stearns, Chairman  
Kenneth Stewart  
David Anspach

Chris Clingman, Director

**How to contact us:**

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Administrative Office  
2228 US Highway 50  
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513-732-9733(fax)  
e-mail: clermparks@aol.com  
web page:  
www.co.clermont.oh.us/parks

Naturalist Office  
Chilo Lock #34 Park  
PO Box 106  
Chilo, OH 45112  
513-876-9013

**A Special Thank You**

- To the Grassy Run Historical Arts Committee, and the Bethel Boy Scout Troop #396 for assisting with the Pancakes in the Park Program on March 11th.
- To IHOP, Owensville IGA, Kroger, Wal-Mart, Kellogg’s, and Grant’s Farm and Garden Center for their donations in support of the Pancakes in the Park program.
- To Don Camery, Shirley Keller, Danny Back, Jim Noble, Danny Long, and Martha Cox for donating photographs and other items to the Chilo Lock #34 Visitor Center.
- To the Batavia Rotary Club for sponsoring the Easter Egg Hunt at Sycamore Park.
- To Mr. Tim Cook and his sixth grade art students from Locust Corner Elementary. Madison Andrews, Tina Burt, Sammy Gregory, Sarah Molitor, Olivia Rhodes, and Lydia Webb painted two wooden cut-outs of Red-tailed Hawks to be used for educational programs and displays.
- To Junior Girl Scout Troop # 6652 from St. Louis church for constructing bluebird boxes to be placed at Hartman Log Cabin, and Pattison Park.
- To Alan Bernstein for donating two steam engines from the *Wakerobin*, to be used as an outdoor display at Chilo Lock #34 Park.
- To the American Heritage Girls troop in Owensville, for pulling garlic mustard from Crooked Run Nature Preserve.
- To the Junior League Garden Club for their \$50 donation.
- To the East Fork Bass Anglers for sponsoring the annual Kid’s Fishing Day at Pattison Park on May 13th.
- To the Pattison Foundation for their \$20,000 donation to purchase playground equipment at Chilo Lock #34 Park.
- To the Sons and Daughters of Pioneer Rivermen, for their \$10,000 grant to restore two steam engines and turn them into an outdoor interpretive exhibit.
- To Curtis Hammock for installing an information kiosk at the new trailhead at Crooked Run Nature Preserve, as part of his Eagle Scout project.
- To Maximum Crane for donating their time to help unload two steam engines at Chilo Lock #34 Park.
- To Jim Meyer for mapping all of the hiking trails within the Park District using GPS.
- To Lew Spurlock for donating pioneer games to the Naturalist Department.